



News Release

For immediate release: December 22, 2010

(10-209)

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360-236-4072
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State revokes, suspends licenses, certifications, registrations of health care providers

OLYMPIA — The Washington State Department of Health has revoked or suspended the licenses, certifications, or registrations of health care providers in our state. The department has also immediately suspended the credentials of people who have been prohibited from practicing in other states.

The department's Health Systems Quality Assurance Office works with boards, commissions and advisory committees to set licensing standards for more than 70 health care professions (e.g., medical doctors, nurses, counselors).

Information about health care providers is on the agency's website. Click on "Provider Credential Search" on the left hand side of the [Department of Health home page](http://www.doh.wa.gov) (www.doh.wa.gov). The site includes information about a health care provider's license status, the expiration and renewal date of their credential, disciplinary actions and copies of legal documents issued after July 1998. This information is also available by calling 360-236-4700. Consumers who think a health care provider acted unprofessionally are also encouraged to call and report their complaint.

Grant County

In October of 2010 the Board of Pharmacy revoked for at least 10 years the pharmacy assistant and pharmacy technician credentials of **Michael R. Bernard** (VB60023576, VA60067886). Bernard diverted Oxycontin, a controlled substance, from a pharmacy where he worked.

Grays Harbor County

In October of 2010 the Department of Health entered into an agreed order with certified nursing assistant **Emily A. Leach** (NC10095587) under which her application to reactivate her credential was granted with 12 months of probation. Leach was convicted in Benton County Superior Court of third-degree theft, a gross misdemeanor.

King County

In September of 2010 the Department of Health indefinitely suspended the credential of certified nursing assistant **Carla S. Linwood** (NC10091538), who failed to comply with terms of an earlier agreed order.

In October of 2010 the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission indefinitely suspended the registered nursing credential of **Thomas Scheerens** (RN00124123), who failed to comply with terms of an earlier stipulation.

In October of 2010 the Medical Quality Assurance Commission entered into an agreed order with physician **Virginia T. Stevens** (MD00030208) under which her credential is indefinitely suspended. Stevens admitted to alcohol abuse, kept inadequate patient records, had a sexual relationship with a patient, practiced medicine after agreeing to cease practicing, and failed to provide direct supervision of employees at a facility where she was medical director.

In October of 2010 the Department of Health suspended for at least five years the massage practitioner credential of **Hosea Immanuel** (MA60036633), who failed to comply with terms of an earlier agreed order.

In October of 2010 the Department of Health permanently revoked the respiratory care and massage practitioner credentials of **Richard M. Garcia** (LR00001273, MA00006364). Garcia had sexual contact with patients and practiced with suspended credentials. He was convicted in King County Superior Court of second-degree assault, a Class B felony, and to practicing without a license, a gross misdemeanor.

In October of 2010 the Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission entered into an agreed order with chiropractor **Frederick B. Hardy** (CH00001214) under which he agreed to voluntarily surrender his credential. Hardy touched a patient's breast without a therapeutic need.

In November of 2010 the Department of Health indefinitely suspended the credential of registered nursing assistant **Chad A. Norris** (NA60081185), who failed to comply with terms of an earlier agreement.

In November of 2010 the Dental Quality Assurance Commission withdrew charges and vacated a default order issued in September of 2010 against the dental credential of **Ronald Brun** (DE00010828).

In November of 2010 the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission suspended for at least two years the licensed practical nursing credential of **Lynn M. Friend** (LP00043643), who failed to arrange care for patients, tested positive for cocaine, and failed to cooperate with an investigation.

Klickitat County

In October of 2010 the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission summarily suspended the registered nursing credential of **Bob L. Ratcliff** (RN00159108) after the Oregon State Board of Nursing suspended his credential to practice in that state.

In November of 2010 the Department of Health indefinitely suspended the credential of first responder **Corey L. Ransier** (ES60084544), who failed to comply with terms of an earlier agreement.

Pacific County

In November of 2010 the Board of Pharmacy entered into an agreed order with pharmacist **Ronald G. Brummel** (PH00009276) and **Raymond Drug Co.** (CF00001111) in which Brummel's credential is suspended for at least two years. From 2006 to 2010, Brummel filled prescriptions for legend drugs after receiving the prescriptions through the Internet. The prescriptions weren't valid because the patients didn't have doctor-patient relationships with the doctors who issued them.

Pierce County

In October of 2010 the Chiropractic Quality Assurance Commission suspended for at least three years the chiropractic X-ray technician credential of **Shawn D. Ostrander** (CX00000902). Ostrander was convicted in Lakewood Municipal Court of fourth-degree domestic violence assault, a gross misdemeanor; in Tacoma Municipal Court of driving under the influence, a gross misdemeanor; and in Pierce County Superior Court of second-degree assault – domestic violence, a Class B felony.

In October of 2010 the Department of Health entered into an agreed order with health care assistant **Jeannie T. Jones** (HC00132194) in which her credential is suspended for at least two years. Jones failed to comply with terms of an earlier stipulation.

In October of 2010 the Department of Health denied the application of **Stephanie A. Witt** (CO60149906) for a chemical dependency professional trainee license. Witt was convicted in Des Moines Municipal Court of third-degree theft, a gross misdemeanor; in King County Superior Court of possession of methamphetamine, a Class C felony; in King County Superior Court of attempted forgery, a gross misdemeanor; and in Pierce County Superior Court of second-degree identity theft, a Class C felony.

In November of 2010 the Department of Health indefinitely suspended the credential of chemical dependency professional trainee **Gary R. Probst** (CO60107571), who failed to comply with terms of an earlier agreement.

In October of 2010 the Department of Health suspended for at least three years the registered nursing assistant credential of **Leona C. Tudela** (NA60021418), who took money from two clients.

In November of 2010 the Department of Health permanently revoked the health care assistant, certified nursing assistant and X-ray technician credentials of **Duwane C. Smith** (HC00155054, NC10077853, XT00006958). Smith viewed private medical records without a legitimate medical or business reason, obtained a copy of a patient's records, used confidential information to contact the patient, and disclosed the records to people who had no legal right to view them. Smith was convicted in King County Superior Court of two counts of attempted stalking, a misdemeanor.

In November of 2010 the Department of Health indefinitely suspended the credential of massage practitioner **Chelsea C. Houser** (MA60002490), who failed to comply with terms of an earlier contract.

Thurston County

In September of 2010 the Department of Health indefinitely suspended the credential of certified nursing assistant **Jerome C. Martin Jr.** (NC10017603), who failed to comply with terms of an earlier agreed order.

Walla Walla County

In October of 2010 the Department of Health suspended for at least three years the registered nursing assistant credential of **Eduardo Luna** (NA00184756) after he held a client on the floor used unwarranted physical force when the client resisted going to bed.

Out of State

Illinois: In November of 2010 the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission summarily suspended the registered nursing credential of **Brigette Grey** (RN60003583) after the Kansas State Board of Nursing suspended her credential to practice in that state.

Texas: In October of 2010 the Medical Quality Assurance Commission withdrew a statement of charges against physician **Howard S. Hanks** (MD00041596).

Virginia: In October of 2010 the Nursing Care Quality Assurance Commission summarily suspended the registered nursing credential of **Gina R. Swaffield** (RN00125024) after the Virginia Board of Nursing revoked her credential to practice in that state.

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